

# Preston & District Model Railway Society

Committee Meeting Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8:00pm

## Present:

John Wilson	<i>Chairman</i>
Andy Joel	<i>Secretary</i>
John Farnden	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carl Bowden	Tom Springett
Andy Postlethwaite	Dave Pallant

## 1. Apologies for absence

None.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Read and adopted.

## 3. Matters arising from the minutes

- The chairman is still awaiting official confirmation from the bank that he can sign checks. On-going. **Action:** JF.
- With regards to Neville's stock, the auction is set for May.
- The survey of members regarding how we attract and keep members was performed at the Christmas do, and the results collated. One negative finding was that groups tend to be cliquey. Committee members are encouraged to mingle!
- New radio controllers for DCC now purchased. Discharged.
- The proposal from the Wednesday afternoon group to build a layout based on Coniston was discussed and approved (more details in the layouts section).
- The bill for repairing and servicing the chairlift has now been paid. Discharged.
- A Whatsapp group has now been formed for committee members. Discharged

## 4. Accidents recorded since the last meeting

- None.

## 5. Finance

- Moving to another bank was further discussed, without resolution.

## 6. Correspondence

- None.

## 7. Membership

- Three new member applications (including one junior) were accepted.

## 8. Future programme

- Exhibition – see later.

## 9. Layouts

- Restoration of Chelthwaite Mills is progressing nicely. Something has now run on it!
- The new N gauge layout is progressing in the work room; currently wiring the lower level. It was noted that of the original £2000 budget only £300 remains. All wood and track have been purchased, as well as the electrics other than the controllers, and the club does have a spare DCC base unit, so there is not much outstanding. *Secretary's note: The budget estimate was made pre-COVID and prices have risen dramatically since then.*
- JW expressed his view that Euxton Junc is showing its age and the club should think about replacing it. The first step would be to invite members to submit proposed plans. Hope to get this going in the next couple of months.
- Coniston (new OO gauge layout by Wednesday afternoon crew) – JW has discussed what the members want. This would be an end-to-end layout, that would go out to exhibition. Set late LMS to early BR; DCC but switchable to DC. Estimated to cost £2000. The committee approved the plan.

## 10. Exhibition

- DP has sourced transparent badges for members, and AP has printed 3d print plaques for layouts.
- 1000 handouts have been printed for £43 to try to attract new members.
- It was noted that a brief article, written by Les, appeared in RM about Rev Awdry's layout appearing at the exhibition.
- A layout has had to drop out. A replace has been found, but this may mean a hotel room is not being used.

## 11. Any other business

- Following on from the survey, it was agreed committee meeting minutes would go on the notice board.
- It was also noted that the notice board needs refreshing!
- It was suggested that scenery tutorials could be done whilst doing the scenery on the N gauge layout.
- JW has written a piece on why modellers should join a club, based loosely on an article in the O Gauge Guild. A slightly abridged version to appear on the club board at the exhibition. **Action:** AKJ.
- It was noted that pot holes at the entrance to the car park are very bad. **Action:** JF to notify landlord.
- Updating the web site and Facebook page was discussed. Ideally Facebook should be updated every couple of weeks, while a diary of layout outings should be on the website. Links between the two as well! **Action:** AKJ and others?

## 12. Date of the next meeting

18/Mar/24 at 8 pm

*Meeting finished at 9:05 pm*